

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043294
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NRC-05 SS-15 AID-05 IO-13
ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043294

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENGR, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR: REQUEST FOR ENRICHED URANIUM

REF: A. 77 BOMBAY 2855; B. 77 BOMBAY 1572

1. ON FEBRUARY 13, THE NATIONAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL (NRDC), UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS (UCS) AND THE SIERRA CLUB SUBMITTED A MOTION REQUESTING NRC TO REOPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING OF MAY 7, 1976 ON TARAPUR FUEL EXPORTS WITH REGARD TO THE CONTINUAL EXPORT OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM TO INDIA AND TO CONSOLIDATE THE PROCEEDINGS ON XSNM-1060 AND XSNM-1222. IN THIS CONNECTION, MOVANTS HAVE RAISED A SERIES OF DETAILED QUESTIONS, A NUMBER OF WHICH RELATE TO THE URGENCY OF NEED FOR THE SLIGHTLY ENRICHED URANIUM COVERED BY THIS EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 043294

2. DEPARTMENT PLANS TO ADVISE NRC THAT IT WOULD OPPOSE REOPENING OF HEARINGS PRIMARILY ON GROUNDS OF THE SUBSTANTIAL DELAYS WHICH WOULD LIKELY RESULT WITH RESPECT TO XSNM-1060 AND WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. RELATIONS WITH INDIA, INCLUDING OUR NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. (NRC STAFF ESTIMATES THAT BECAUSE OF PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

HEARINGS, IF HELD, PROBABLY COULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE

EARLY APRIL.) WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO PREDICT NRC
DECISION ON WHETHER TO HOLD HEARINGS. UNDER PENDING NRC
REGULATIONS, HEARINGS WOULD BE HELD IF TWO COMMISSIONERS
SUPPORT THE MOTION.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT'S POSITION WOULD BE
ENHANCED IF WE COULD PROMISE TO PROMPTLY RESPOND IN DEPTH
TO ISSUES RAISED BY PETITIONERS, THEREBY SUBSTANTIALLY
REDUCING RAISON D'ETRE FOR HEARING. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
RAISED BY PETITIONERS ON ISSUE OF URGENCY ARE:

A. HOW MANY FRESH FUEL ASSEMBLIES REMAIN AT TAPS
FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 1977 RELOADING OF UNIT II?

B. HOW MANY FRESH FUEL ASSEMBLIES, IF ANY, ARE IN
TRANSIT TO TAPS?

C. WHAT IS THE PRECISE INVENTORY -- FRESH URANIUM AND
SCRAP, COMPLETED AND PARTIALLY COMPLETED ASSEMBLIES --
AT THE HYDERABAD FABRICATION FACILITY?

D. WHAT WOULD BE THE ANTICIPATED PRODUCTION AT THE
FABRICATION FACILITY, ASSUMING THAT ISSUANCE OF XSNM-1060
IS DELAYED THREE MONTHS OR LONGER?
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 043294

E. DURING THE SEVERAL RECENT VISITS OF U.S. OFFICIALS
TO INDIA, WAS THERE ANY TECHNICAL INSPECTION OF THE FABRI-
CATION FACILITY AND TAPS TO DETERMINE FURTHER FUEL NEEDS?

4. UNLESS YOU HAVE CONTRARY JUDGMENT, REQUEST THAT IAEC
BE APPROACHED FOR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS SOONEST, AS
WELL AS SUGGESTING THAT IT PROVIDE ANY SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION ON THIS ISSUE WHICH IT CONSIDERS RELEVANT.

5. WITH RESPECT TO LAST QUESTION, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO
RELEASE PART I OF LAST-KIEFER REPORT, WITH MODIFICATIONS
REQUESTED BY IAEC IN REFTEL B.

6. FYI - IN A MEETING WITH DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY NYE,
FEBRUARY 15, INDIAN DCM GOKHALE WAS INFORMED OF INTER-
VENTION AND LIKELIHOOD THAT IF A PUBLIC HEARING IS HELD,
NRC PROCEEDINGS COULD EXTEND INTO APRIL. END FYI.

7. COPY OF COMPLETE MOTION BEING AIR-POUCHED SOONEST. VANCE

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